

The cost of discipleship



That’s nice. At the front, the Master, and a crowd of people following Him. Of course, who wouldn’t want to be His disciple? But then He turns around and sets the conditions for discipleship.

To be accepted into further education, university or an apprenticeship you have to fulfil certain conditions regarding your abilities. Don’t you calculate beforehand whether you have enough willpower to see things through? Because it is rather embarrassing if you have to stop half way through.

The Lord Jesus, your Master, is happy if you want to follow Him. But there is also a cost involved – what this is you can find out in verses 26-27 and 33.



- 128. What are the conditions to be a disciple of Jesus?
- 129. What three comparisons does Jesus make?



Already in the antiquity, salt was important item for flavouring and preserving food. It is an illustration of the sanctifying, preserving power of God, shown in the life of a disciple. Salt in Israel came from the Dead Sea and contained many other minerals. If this salt was stored for too long and became damp, it was possible for the sodium to be washed out. This made the salt lose its flavour, because only the useless components were left. – In the same way, a nominal Christian is useless for his surroundings, because the power of God is not visible in His life.



School, apprenticeship or university take only a few years. Discipleship is for life!



128. The disciple must hate (i.e. give second place to) his parents, his wife and children, his siblings, as well as himself, and he must take up his cross (v26-27). He also must give up everything he has (v33). 129. (1) The man who builds a tower (v28), (2) the king going to war (v31), (3) the salt (v34).